

# WILLIAM B. CLARK CONSERVATION AREA

## CLASS II NATURAL SCIENTIFIC STATE NATURAL AREA

<b>COUNTY:</b>	Fayette	<b>ACREAGE:</b>	460
<b>7.5' QUADRANGLE:</b>	Rossville	<b>OWNERSHIP:</b>	The Nature Conservancy
<b>PHYSIOGRAPHIC PROVINCE:</b>	Coastal Plain	<b>YEAR DESIGNATED:</b>	2000

### DESCRIPTION:

William B. Clark Conservation Area is a 460-acre natural area along the Wolf River in Fayette County located approximately 1 mile north of Rossville, TN. The natural area protects an unchannelized section of the Wolf River which includes meanders, sloughs, and bottomland hardwood forests. The river and its sloughs provide excellent habitat for rare and endangered freshwater mussels and other aquatic organisms. A variety of aquatic and terrestrial habitats offer opportunities for observing birds and other wildlife. Examples of unchannelized river and functional bottomland forests are becoming increasingly rare in west Tennessee.

An interpretive boardwalk exists on site and meanders through the bald cypress-water tupelo forest for about 1600 feet. From the boardwalk, wildlife such as snakes (*even cottonmouths*), turtles, amphibians, beavers, wading birds, and aquatic vegetation are a common site. Cypress knees are seen eerily protruding from the moist forest floor and shallow water. The boardwalk provides access to rarely seen interior of a riparian bald cypress-water tupelo swamp, which have been quickly disappearing from West Tennessee.

### SITE MANAGEMENT:

The Nature Conservancy, Tennessee Chapter, 2021 21st Avenue South, Suite C-400, Nashville, TN 37212, phone (615) 383-9909 Division of Natural Heritage, 401 Church St, 14th Floor L&C Tower, Nashville, TN 37243-0447, phone (615) 532-0431.

### PUBLIC ACCESS:

Public access allowed; parking and a boardwalk are provided.

### DIRECTIONS:

From Memphis: take Poplar Ave. (State Hwy. 57, U.S. Hwy. 72) east through Collierville. Follow Hwy. 57 to Rossville and turn left (north) on State Hwy. 194. Follow Hwy. 194 for just less than one mile to the bridge over the Wolf River; the parking area is on the right (east) side of road. Follow the gravel path to the boardwalk.